CROTON WATER.

Our readers will recollect in an early number of The Builder an account of the Croton aqueduct for conveying water to New York; the following is an extract from an American paper adverting to the results. There are many positions in this country in which water might and ought to be supplied upon the same principle; but the Americans appear to be destined in every thing to "*go a head*" of the parent country—and not a little so in matters of unquestioned public benefit:

"The impression is becoming general among our citizens, that the abundant supply of "pure and wholesome water" furnished to 300,000 inhabitants, by the introduction of the Croton river into this city, was not too dearly purchased, even at 12 or 13 million dollars. The hydrants are now so regulated that a constant stream flows from each, say half an inch in diameter, and these 1200 fountains, scattered all over the city, are free to all. There is no labour at pumping or drawing—just hold your bucket, or set it down, and it will soon be filled with as wholesome and palatable water as can be desired. If any one would see how much comfort is afforded by this abundant supply of water, let him pass through the streets in a hot day or evening, especially those which are occupied chiefly by labouring people, and he will want no further evidence. To such an observer it will seem as if everybody wanted water. The children—and adults too, in many cases—are drinking at the hydrants; the women and men come with pails, pitchers, and cups, according to the extent of the wants which are to be supplied; and none go away empty, or stinted in their allowance—for there is enough and to spare. If you walk on till late in the evening (but perhaps you had better not), the same impressions will meet you in another shape. The streets are now still; the hydrants are nearly or quite deserted; but the sound of running water, cool and refreshing, meets your ear on every side, and you wonder if it is possible that you are in the midst of a great city, noted for its filth and swine! It requires no great stretch of fancy to imagine yourself in some rural retreat, abounding with rivulets and streams, fresh from the hand of the Creator, and, with such voices as they have, uttering his praises. If you enter the houses of the affluent, or those of persons who, without wealth, are accustomed to all the conveniences of life, you will find a branch of the same Croton, supplying all the wants of the family—kitchen, bed-rooms and all—with perhaps a shower-bath in the garret. If a house takes fire, all you have to do is, to attach a hose to one of the hydrants, and direct the full stream upon the burning building. Before many of the engines arrive, the fire will probably be extinguished. If you want to supply a vessel with water for a voyage, just attach a hose to the nearest hydrant, and conduct the other end to the water casks on board, and they will soon be full. If the weather is hot and the gutters foul, open the hydrants for half an hour, and the filth will have disappeared. Then there are the beautiful fountains playing in the public squares, delighting the eye with their ever-varying forms, and the ear with their music. These, too, are branches of the same invaluable Croton."

FOLKSTONE PAVILION, ON THE LONDON AND DOVER RAILWAY.

This building is much admired, and yet it is a mere conversion of a boat-building and shipwright's shed—shewing how much may be done with the meanest materials by the hand of the man of taste. This title has been earned by Mr. Lewis Cubitt, the able engineer of the London and Dover Railway, who has contrived a complete establishment for travellers—refreshment-rooms, parlours, and bed-rooms—within the despised carcase we have described.

The conversion of the meaner structure to the purposes of a pavilion, furnished and furbished up, so as to be fitted for the tenancy of Mr. Vantini, the well-known artist, if we may so term him, and surveyor for the public taste in matters of *haut-gout*, was effected in the short space of five weeks, and is now nothing less than an attraction to the traveller by this well-managed and economic railway, and the visitor to Folkstone.

Paris and Orleans Railroad.—The receipts of the Orleans railroad for the week ending on the 18th inst., are 113,971f. 99c., about 4,560*l*.

Washington Irving has succeeded to a large fortune, which has been bequeathed to him by one of the Society of Friends, to whom the distinguished American author was personally unknown.

POMPEIAN PAPER-HANGINGS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I have recently, in the course of my perambulations, happened fortuitously upon some works of decorative art, such as I had not been previously aware lay at all within our power; in fact, so far from believing they were available, I did not know that they existed.

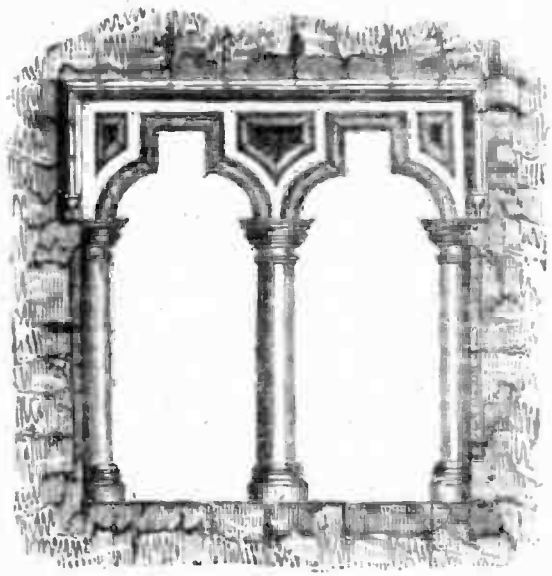
I trust, should this meet the eye of the gentleman to whose establishment I have here occasion to refer, he will not deem me taking an unwarrantable liberty in doing so, but excuse it as a duty which a professional individual owes to the body to which he belongs. If men who, possessing superior taste and talent, carry the branch of art they have adopted to an unprecedented degree of excellence, yet, in their labour of love, overlook or hesitate to make use of those means of publishing their success which lie within their power, and which it is a duty they owe to themselves, and the community they move in, to employ, it becomes the more the privilege of others, interested in the produce of their industry, to take the steps for that purpose which they may consider expedient and desirable, with a view to the general good.

It is in this feeling then, after having visited with a friend the paper-hanging manufactory of Mr. Clarke, High Holborn, I am prompted to briefly communicate to you what I had there an opportunity of inspecting. The papers that particularly attracted my attention, and in the production of which the manufacturer has exercised so creditable a taste and had to exert so much perseverance, are Pompeian and Herculanean, and exhibit faithful copies of the peculiar and beautiful style presented to us in those long-sealed-up treasuries of art; the drawing, the colours, the tone and character are admirably followed, and excellent fac-similes obtained: and whether we regard the varied architectural combinations, or the graceful and pleasing groups that are shrined within them, we are struck with the importance of such an acquisition; but we are also impressed with a wondering veneration for a people whose imaginative pencils delineated, whose intelligent and appreciating tastes enjoyed, nearly two thousand years bygone, those same triumphs of conception and skill which still live to command admiration.

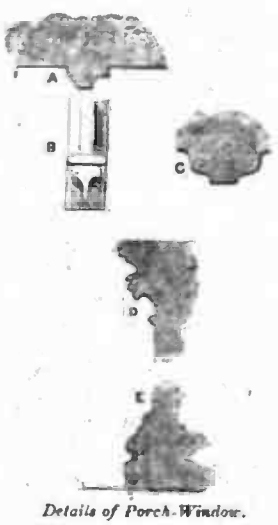
The introduction of these Pompeian hangings is a circumstance to be hailed with lively satisfaction, as an addition to our architectural resources; indeed, in the narrowest view, it is so, as offering a stimulus in a trade which really stands in need of some impulse towards freshness and originality, to rescue it from its present generally meaningless state, and stamp it with a higher character.

I saw papers also, of great merit, in Elizabethan, Moorish, &c.; but as my wish is only to direct attention to what I find standing out in marked and bold relief from what is usually met with, I shall refrain from ramranching further upon your other matter. Remaining Sir, very obediently your

PEREGRINE, B.A.A.D. 8?



PORCH WINDOW, STANFIELD CHURCH, SUFFOLK.



Details of Porch-Window.

Sir,—With the view of contributing to the general stock, I forward the accompanying sketch of the Porch-Window of Stanfield Church, Suffolk. Should you deem it worthy of a place in The Builder, I shall be happy to forward you others as opportunities occur. I have sketched the details to twice the scale, as, to my mind, the value of many of the sketches of Gothic windows, which have already appeared in your paper, would have been considerably enhanced had they been thus illustrated.

With best wishes for your success in your endeavours for the general weal,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. I.

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